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FREDERICK WILLIAM BATCHELDER.

MARIA L. OWEN.

A gentle, unassuming, lovable life came to its earthly close when Frederick W. Batchelder left us. The task of writing a fitting notice of him for a botanical journal is a hard one; for those who knew him, the man is so much more than the botanist, that with a heavy heart and with eyes that scarcely see through tears, the tribute which he well deserves in this magazine is attempted.

Frederick W. Batchelder was born in Pelham, N. H., in 1838, son of Dr. Amos Batchelder and Rebecca (Atwood) Batchelder, a descendant on his father's side from the Rev. Stephen Bachiler who came over from England in 1632. In the nearly three centuries which have elapsed since that time, the spelling of the name has undergone many changes, for every branch of the old divine's posterity seems to have had its own way. The common ancestor of all was excommunicated in his own country for his independent religious opinions, and in this country too, the sturdy and brave old parson was so persecuted for his departure from the ecclesiastical ruts to which he was constitutionally averse, even his moral character being assailed, that after some twenty years here, he shook off the dust of New England from his feet, and returned to Old Boston, England, where he died at the age of 100, a man of great vigor physically and intellectually. His character is thoroughly vindicated in our times from the injurious charges which prevailed against it for two centuries.

On his mother's side Mr. Batchelder came down from Hugh Tallant of whom Whittier wrote in "The Sycamores." The poet gives many verses to him as a story-teller and musician, but Hugh was much more than a "rustic Irish gleeman." He was a man of great force of char-

acter. Coming a poor immigrant, he soon acquired property in New Hampshire, where he lived as a good citizen, adding to the happiness of all who knew him "with his eyes brimful of laughter, and his mouth as full of song." He came from Ireland, but he was a member of the church of England, and probably from one of the "transplanted" English families of Cromwell's time. Our friend just lost had his musical gifts in fullest measure, and his gaiety of temperament; would that he might have inherited the vitality of these two ancestors, for Hugh lived through a vigorous old age to be 108.

The young Batchelder was fitted for Harvard in the Boston Latin School, and was graduated from college in the "fighting class" of 1860 — the class of whose 146 members 79 went to the war and 19 gave their lives. Mr. Batchelder entered the service as surgeon steward in the navy, on the bark *Kingfisher* of the South Atlantic blockading squadron, and after thirteen months of service was honorably discharged on account of disability.

From that time he made Manchester, New Hampshire, his home except for a few years spent in Springfield, Massachusetts. He married, in Manchester, Miss Annie Varney, daughter of the Hon. David Varney of that city.

The lifework of the young man was already outlined at his graduation. He had studied medicine under Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, and had been a pupil of Agassiz. He became an excellent botanist in after years and also an ornithologist of good standing. His catalogue of the plants of southern New Hampshire and his editing of Allen's "Birds of New Hampshire" and Wright's "Birds of the Jefferson region" show what thorough work he could do in both these branches of science. Thoroughness, indeed, was a characteristic of all that he did.

Mr. Batchelder was gifted in many ways, but he was, first of all, a musician. As a composer, particularly for the organ, he had high rank; the fine quality and originality of his work were recognized as admirable by the best judges; but his musical and scientific work were both hampered by ill health. For the last fifteen years of his life he worked constantly with more or less suffering, but always persistently, cheerfully and with indomitable courage. Neither ill health nor ill fortune could ever shake his beautiful optimism, as prominent and winning a trait as any part of his character. He was an organist for fifty-two years without interruption, from his college

days at Harvard, when he played in Appleton Chapel, to his last service in Manchester only two weeks before his death.

Music and bird lore were combined in his very careful and accurate transcription of bird songs and calls which he used from time to time, illustrating them on the piano, in the ornithological section of the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences. They were very highly thought of by those who heard them, though not satisfactory to Mr. Batchelder, because the bird song needs the sliding scale, which the piano does not have. He had studied carefully the birds of the Connecticut Valley, and later of the Merrimac Valley; indeed he observed them wherever he was, but here again his work was limited by ill health, particularly in the case of the game, water and shore birds. He was a constant contributor to the magazine, *Nature Study*, published by the Institute, where his articles, excellent for their matter upon birds and plants, had an added value from the beauty of their style. Whatever came from his pen was charming,— clear, direct and simple, and with the delicious humor coming out suddenly in the most unexpected places.

He loved to be with young people, and they, whatever their connection with him might be, were devoted to him — his choir, the young botanists and ornithologists to whom he was always a helpful friend, those engaged in various other branches of Institute work and those who only knew him socially; they all enjoyed his society, and never realized any disparity of years, so youthful was his spirit.

His knowledge was freely at the service of all who wanted it, and those far advanced in science often had something to learn of him, but for all this he sought no recognition. He was continually studying and learning from pure love of nature, and the glad helpfulness of his disposition made him always ready to impart from his gains; whether he was making a name in the world was far from his thoughts.

A loyal son of Harvard, he was the beloved president of the Harvard Club of Manchester, and the dean of the Alumni of the same city. His last musical composition was "A Hymn to Harvard" with Latin words which he wrote for the July meeting of the New Hampshire Harvard Club at Walpole. He did not feel equal to attending, but they had asked him for a poem, and he sent this as his contribution.

An attack of grip some ten years ago left him with chronic bronchitis and asthma which, in their turn, induced a peculiar weakness of the heart. These troubles incapacitated him for active work in his pro-

fession, but he could not give up his music entirely; he played the organ in church, and directed his choir to the last. But work which did not confine him to fixed hours was still in his power, and such occupation he took up with unfailing courage. His indomitable spirit was never impaired by his semi-invalidism, and work of lasting value for the Manchester Institute mentioned elsewhere in this paper, was begun and carried on through the rest of his life, and this courage and persistence in work were lighted up with a gaiety and delightful humor which pervaded and sweetened everything which he said or wrote.

The summer of 1911 with its long heated term was very trying to Mr. Batchelder and he weakened under it; he went with his wife and her sister to the Isles of Shoals, a favorite resort of his; he enjoyed his stay there, but the sea level did not agree with him. They went next to another loved locality, Chocorua, amongst the Sandwich mountains, where he had spent eight happy summers. Here too he had great joy, although unable to walk beyond the house grounds. They came home the 15th of September, and for a week he seemed to have regained some strength; after that a slight shock from which he was too weak to rally, proved the beginning of the end. He lived two weeks longer gradually sinking, but with his mind clear to the last, and on the 11th of October he passed away as peacefully as he had lived.

Although Mr. Batchelder had been interested in botany during his college days, it was not until the death of his daughter in 1887 that, as a mental diversion, he took up serious botanical work. He then began the accumulation of a private herbarium to represent his region of the Merrimac Valley. Soon after the formation in 1898 of the Manchester Institute of Science he presented his herbarium to the Institute. In 1902 this collection, together with a large number of additions made to it by Mr. Batchelder, was destroyed by fire, but immediately thereafter he set to work upon a new herbarium. This, at the time of his death, comprised 3,500 sheets. In 1900, in the Proceedings of the Manchester Institute, he published his *Preliminary List of Plants growing without Cultivation in the Vicinity of Manchester, New Hampshire*, followed in 1901 and 1902 by *Additions to the Preliminary List of Plants*, and in 1909 by a complete revision of the *Preliminary List*; a work which will always be used by students of geographic distribution with the assurance that it was based upon accurate

knowledge of the local flora. Besides this *List*, which stands as Mr. Batchelder's most important technical publication in botany, frequent notes from his pen were published in RHODORA, and his name is familiar to New England botanists as the author of the combination *Glyceria borealis* (Nash) Batchelder.

MANHASSET, NEW YORK.

### NOTES ON CONNECTICUT MOSSES,—III.

G. E. NICHOLS.

IN his last paper on Connecticut mosses<sup>1</sup> the writer called attention to the northwestern part of the state, and especially to the town of Salisbury, as a favorable collecting ground. At that time eighteen species of hepatics and mosses were known from no other locality. This number has since been raised to twenty-six. In the present series of notes eleven mosses are recorded from Connecticut for the first time. Of these, nine represent additions due to recent explorations, while the remaining two have previously been reported under other names.

FISSIDENS VIRIDULUS (Swartz) Wahl. Bolton and Danbury (G. E. N.); Hamden (J. A. Allen, 1880); East Haven (Kleeberger). For some time it has been evident to the writer that the Connecticut material which has been passing as *F. incurvus* Swaegr. (including *F. minutulus* Sull.)<sup>2</sup> comprised a number of distinct forms. Recently all of the available Connecticut specimens, some sixteen packets in all, were submitted to Mr. H. N. Dixon of Northampton, England, for examination, and some of his observations will be of interest to American bryologists. The broad conclusion that he comes to is that there is at any rate none of the true *F. incurvus* in the lot. Moreover, none of the specimens seem to agree with the descriptions of *F. minutulus*. Mr. Dixon divides the Connecticut specimens into several groups, one of which, as already indicated, he assigns definitely to *F. viridulus*. A second group, comprising specimens collected by the writer in Salisbury and North Branford, he refers to *F. viridulus* var. *Lylei* Wils. (= *F. exiguus* Sull.). The remaining

<sup>1</sup> RHODORA 13: 40. 1911.

<sup>2</sup> See Evans and Nichols: *Bryophytes of Connecticut* 104. 1908.